

WELLCOME
HISTORICAL MEDICAL
MUSEUM



FOUNDED 1913

54A WIGMORE STREET
LONDON, W.

WELLCOME COLL
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THE WELLCOME
HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM

Containing collections illustrating the History
of Medicine and Allied Sciences throughout
the World from prehistoric times

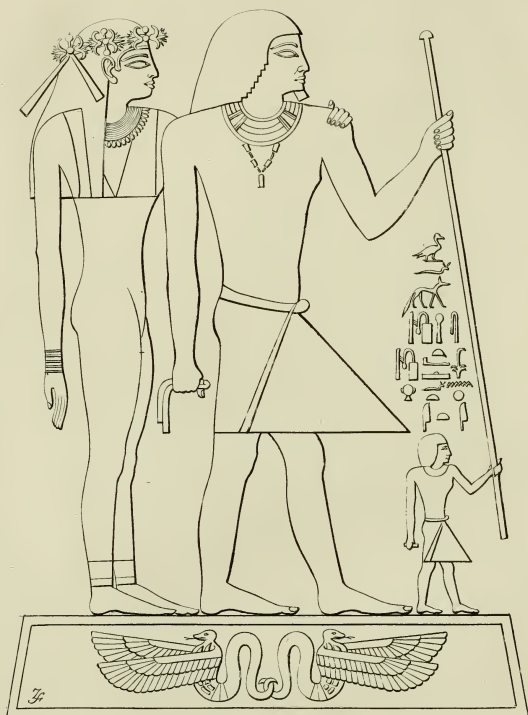
THIS GUIDE IS INTENDED TO
INDICATE IN A GENERAL WAY
THE CHIEF FEATURES AND
OBJECTS EXHIBITED IN THE
MUSEUM

The decorative headings are reduced facsimiles
of friezes specially designed and painted for
the Museum



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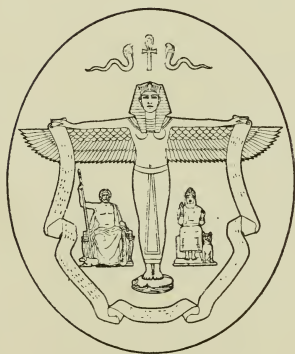
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PEHENUKA, AN EGYPTIAN PRIEST-PHYSICIAN
OF THE V DYNASTY, AND J'EFA-SEN, HIS WIFE

By virtue of their superior intelligence and learning, the priesthood of ancient Egypt, as of other early civilisations, united the two important offices of priest and physician. They ministered to the soul and healed the body. Pehenuka, who lived about 3000 B.C., was physician at the court of King User Ka-f. His wife, J'efa-Sen, who is also here depicted, was a priestess of Neit. The Egyptian priest-physicians of this remote period were renowned throughout the then known world for their skill and learning.

GUIDE
TO THE
WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL
MUSEUM



54, WIGMORE STREET, LONDON, W.

**WELLCOME
COLLECTION**

/ 258



FOREWORD

THE Wellcome Historical Medical Museum was founded by Mr. Henry S. Wellcome in 1913. It is the result of collections made by him during many years in various parts of the world, and, at the request of the chief officials, was adopted as the Museum of the Section of History of Medicine, which formed part of the XVIIth International Congress of Medicine held in London in August of that year.

It was inaugurated by Sir Norman Moore, F.R.C.P., President of the Section, on Tuesday, June 24, 1913. The Museum was visited by large numbers of the delegates and members of the International Congress of Medicine, also by many medical practitioners and others interested, from all parts of the world.

After closing for several months for the purpose of re-arrangement, the Museum, with the addition of several new sections and many objects of historical interest, was re-opened as a permanent institution.

In 1926 the Museum was re-organised ; many important additions have been made to the collections, and the arrangement of the material in the various sections altered. Also several new sections were developed. The War, Lister, Jenner and other sections were considerably enlarged. Throughout the Museum more effective lighting was installed, and the material re-arranged in new cases so that the visitor may inspect the objects to the best advantage and with the utmost ease.

The collections are international in character, and cover a wide field, including Medicine, Surgery, Chemistry, Pharmacy and the Allied Sciences. The Museum is designed to represent the history of these various branches of the art of healing throughout the world, and their practice is illustrated by objects, instruments and appliances of historical interest, and by plastic and pictorial art.

Medicine has a history which has touched every phase of life and art, and is, to a large extent, bound up with the records of human existence from the earliest times. By its study, fresh fields of medical research are suggested, and the interest in others, still undeveloped, is stimulated. Our views of progress, especially with regard to medical treatment, are often exaggerated, owing to our ignorance of the past ; and careful research into ancient records has revealed the fact that modern methods are often mere repetitions of those practised in long past ages. Through the study of medical history, discoveries of great value, quite forgotten and buried in the records of the past, have been brought to light.

The importance of museums as an integral part of teaching is now fully recognised, and, by intelligent classification and systematic grouping of objects, it is our aim and purpose to make the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum of distinct educational value to research workers, students and others interested in the subjects with which it deals.

One of the central aims of this Museum is to connect the links in the chain of human experience and living things which stretch back from the present time into the

most remote ages of the great past. Efforts are being made to trace the genesis of many branches of the healing art, and their development is illustrated by instruments and appliances connected with them from their inception to the present day.

It is also an important feature in the plans of this Museum to conserve the relics of workers and discoverers in various branches of Medicine and the Allied Sciences, and so hand down to posterity the names of those who in the course of time might be forgotten, thus rendering honour to whom honour is due. Such relics, when placed in this Museum, will form a permanent memorial and tribute to the work and achievements of those who have distinguished themselves in various realms of science in past years.

Many of these collections have been presented to the Museum as the most appropriate depository for such relics, etc.

Gifts or loans of this description, from relatives or executors of famous men, will receive the greatest possible care and be permanently preserved.

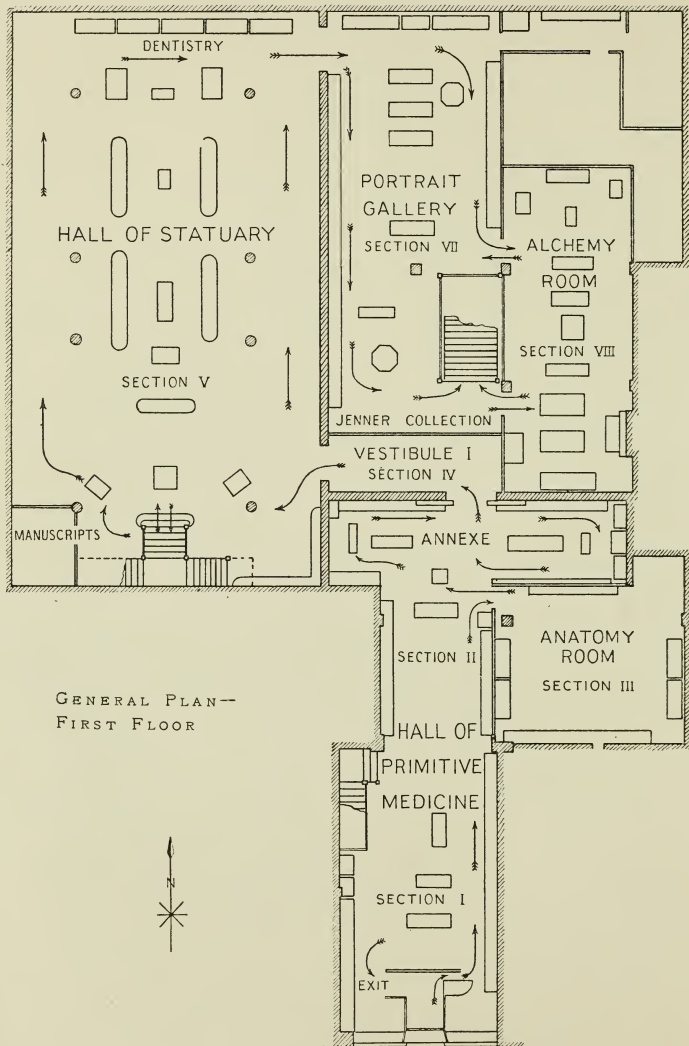
In this connection the offer of MSS., early printed books, diplomas, autograph letters, ancient surgical instruments, appliances and other objects of historical medical interest, will be much appreciated either as donations or loans for exhibition in the Museum. All communications should be addressed to:—

THE CONSERVATOR

THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM

54, WIGMORE STREET

LONDON, W. 1



GENERAL PLAN--
FIRST FLOOR



SECTION I
HALL OF PRIMITIVE MEDICINE
ROOM I

THE practice of the healing art may be traced in part from prehistoric days, and a reconstruction can be attempted by a study of primitive and folk-medicine. Light can also be thrown on many obscure practices by a study of those undeveloped races of to-day, who lead a life somewhat similar to that of early man.

In this section, the craft of the layman who works by reason of a tried, if uncritical, experience, is illustrated. The higher, or metempirical branches of primitive medicine as controlled by the medicine-man and his assistants, are illustrated by a series of effigies in costume, together with the paraphernalia used in his practice.

The control of magical processes by means of material objects, effigies, etc., is demonstrated in Cases 1—7. Other subjects dealt with in this room are ancestor-cult, cult of the dead, skull-cult and totemism.

Objects from the archæological excavations made by Mr. Wellcome in an indigenous African prehistoric site discovered by him at Gebel Moya, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, are shown in Cases 20—23. The latest date of occupation of this site was found to be about 800 B.C. and leading back through the bronze, copper and stone ages to a very remote period of human endeavour.

A reconstructed skull-hunter's hut from South East New Guinea is shown over the staircase.

SECTION II

HALL OF PRIMITIVE MEDICINE

ROOM II

THE place of magic and religion in the daily life and social conditions of mankind is difficult to define. The magical process implies an influence on animate life by material objects, and the religious process relies upon supernatural or spiritual influences.

Charms, talismans, amulets, mascots, etc., all have their place in the life of mankind, and the belief in their powers varies according to environment, etc.

In this section, the charms, amulets and talismans of various countries are arranged in geographical order. Of particular interest are the cases showing the Egyptian amulets, and the prophylactics for the Evil Eye; the ecclesiastical talismans, etc., and the collection of modern London charms, amulets and talismans.

In Case 51 is a series illustrating artificial deformity of the body; and in Case 52 a series of pathological and anatomical forms, represented from the primitive view-point, is shown.

SECTION III

ANATOMY ROOM

THE history of anatomy is illustrated by means of drawings, paintings and sculpture. From prehistoric days, man has evinced an interest in anatomy, and the earliest delineations of the human body were realistic. Interior anatomy was not known until comparatively late. Galen dissected animals, and until the XIIIth

Anatomy Room—*continued*

century the teaching of anatomy was based on his work. The earliest authorised dissections appear to date from 1302 (Varignana) and 1315 (Mundinus).

Prominent in this room are the anatomical mannikins in ivory, bone, etc., used in the XVIth and XVIIth centuries to teach anatomy and midwifery.

Anatomical models of interest are shown in the various cases. The work of Vesalius and Harvey is represented in Case 62 and 63. A Collection illustrating the history of trephining is shown in Cases 66 and 67.

On the walls are numerous paintings, etc., of anatomical interest.

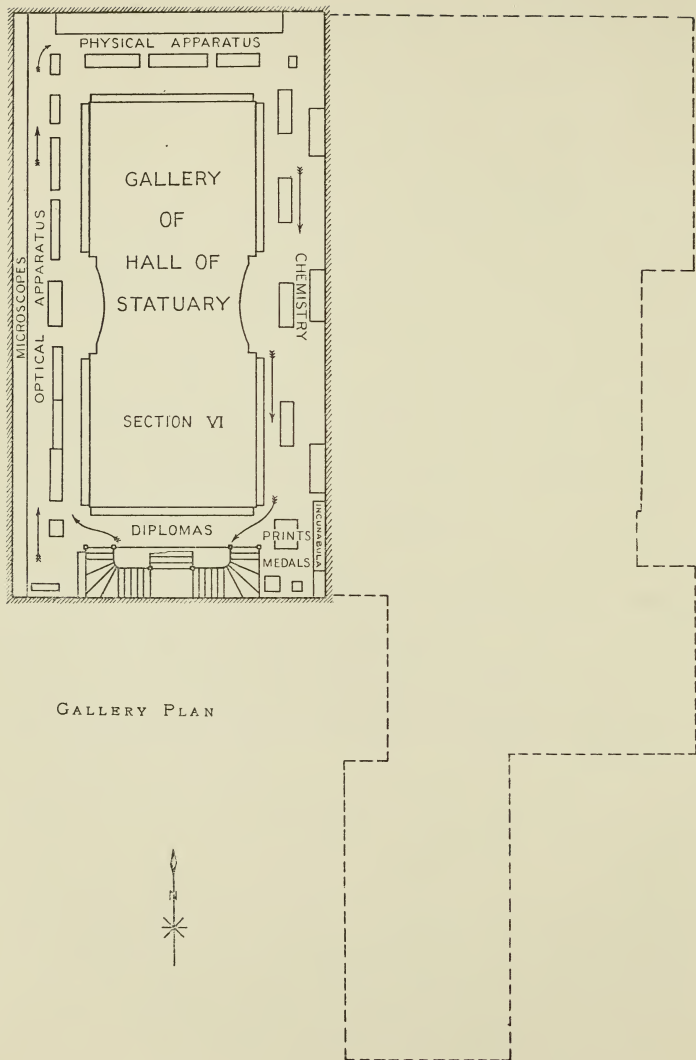
SECTION IV

VESTIBULE I

IN this section, leading from primitive to classical practice, are numerous pictures of medical and surgical interest.

The influence of the saints in medicine is represented by oil paintings, etc., of Cosmas, Damian and other Saints.

In Case 71 is a plaque of "St. Cosmas operating on a man's head," *ca.* 1550, by Leonard Limousin of Limôges ; a reliquary containing the fragments of the bones of Saints Cosmas and Damian, Italian, XVIIth century. Other Reliquaries.





SECTION V

HALL OF STATUARY

PROMINENT in this Hall are statues, casts and reproductions of the deities associated with the healing art in ancient and classical times.

At the north end are grouped those of early civilisations, including the gods of the Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians. Prominent among these is Ea, one of the earliest known deities connected with medicine, who, according to tradition, instructed the protohistoric peoples of the Euphrates valley in science and learning about 5000 B.C.

On the left are Egyptian deities associated with healing, and, on the right, representations of the fathers of medicine of India and China, together with the Aztec medical genius, Ixtlilton.

At the south end are the deities of the early and classic periods of Hellenic culture.

In front of the gallery balustrade on the north side, are the original barge flags of the Barber Surgeons Company of London, which was incorporated in 1461, and in the centre is a replica of the banner of the Company of Barber Surgeons.

In front of the south end of the gallery are two of the barge streamers of the Society of Apothecaries of London,

Hall of Statuary—*continued*

which was incorporated in 1617. These streamers were formerly used in State pageants on the Thames. In the centre is a replica of the banner of the Society.

In the Egyptian alcove on the left are reproductions in facsimile of the earliest records of medicine, dating from *ca.* 2700 B.C., including the medical papyri of Kahun, Ebers, Hearst and those of London and Berlin. Close by, in Case 98, are also early representations of deities, together with alabaster unguentaria and stone mortars used for medical purposes in ancient Egypt.

Facing these, on the right, in the Oriental alcove, will be found figures of deities, associated with healing, from the Far East, and, on the adjacent walls, representations of the practice of medicine in ancient Greece and Rome.

The cases under the gallery and in the centre of the Hall contain a representative collection of instruments employed in surgery and dentistry from the earliest times in various parts of the world.

As far as possible the scheme is evolutionary, and the series are so arranged that the history of each instrument may be studied separately. The evolution of some of the more important instruments is shown in the various cases.

On the staircase leading to the gallery are paintings of medical interest.

SECTION VI

GALLERY OF THE HALL OF STATUARY

ON the walls of the west side, the development of the microscope is shown in Cases 104—138. The smaller types are illustrated in Case 139.

The centre cases show the development of the spy-glass, lorgnette, folding hand spectacles, etc., oriental spectacles, goggles, etc.; ophthalmic instruments; ophthalmoscopes, optometers, etc.; artificial eyes; Roman 'oculists' stamps; eye-baths, etc.

On the balustrade the evolution of the spectacle is shown in Cases 148—154.

At the north end of the wall is a collection of objects relating to Physics, including the original apparatus used by Galvani in the discovery of animal magnetism in 1792.

Prints and autographs are shown in cases in the south-western corner, and in the balustrade cases at the south end of the gallery are representative diplomas, etc.

In the east gallery, the history of Chemistry is illustrated by means of apparatus, paintings, books, manuscripts, etc., etc.

In the south-east corner are incunabula, medical medals, prints, etc., etc.

Original apparatus by Lord Kelvin and Lord Rayleigh are shown in Cases 157 and 167.

On the walls are pictures, etc., relating to the various subjects represented.

SECTION VII

PORTRAIT GALLERY

AN important section is being developed in this gallery to illustrate the life work of eminent physicians and surgeons. Portraits of men renowned for their work in various branches of the healing art are hung in association with personal relics, instruments which they invented, etc. It is hoped that this section will develop into an organised series showing the changes and progress of medicine and surgery in recent times. As the years pass by, the work of the men shown will thus acquire its true historical perspective.

The work of Edward Jenner is illustrated in Cases 193—195 and by statues, paintings, diplomas, etc., at the south end of the wall.

Other departments represented in this gallery are pomanders, unguents, etc. ; toilet requisites ; the evolution of oral and nasal instruments, syringes, thermometers, stethoscopes, urology, pessaries, etc. ; anæsthetics and circumcision.

In Cases 207—214 are talismanic and healing rings ; stones of healing ; coins and documents relating to healing by the royal touch ; incunabula ; manuscripts ; medals and plaquettes ; miniatures, etc., etc.

In Cases 202 and 203 historical relics are shown, including the medical outfits used by Lord Nelson and the Duke of Wellington.

SECTION VIII

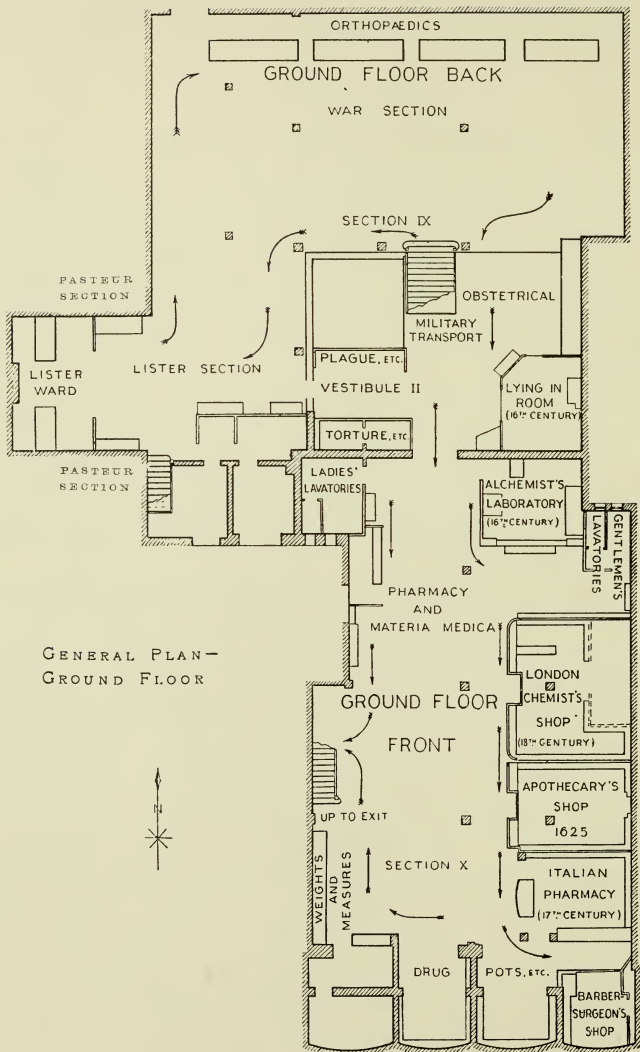
ALCHEMY ROOM

THIS gallery has been arranged to illustrate the History of Alchemy and Iatrochemistry by means of pictures, drawings, original manuscripts, reproductions from ancient manuscripts, documents, models and actual apparatus employed by the alchemists in making discoveries during the past centuries, which have helped to raise the Science of Chemistry to the position it holds to-day.

The curious water-colour drawings on the walls are reproductions from manuscripts on Alchemy from the XIIIth and XIVth centuries, and depict symbolically various chemical processes and operations, such as distillation, sublimation, calcination, digestion, extraction and precipitation.

Models of alchemists' hearths come next, on which are stills and other apparatus of iron, pewter and stoneware. At the back of the hearth on the east wall, in curious shaped bottles, are specimens of the elements and the symbols, according to the ideas of the XVth century.

Right and left are models of large pieces of apparatus which were to be found in every laboratory of importance from the XVIth to the XVIIIth century. The first is the "aludel" or "sublimatory," used for subliming sulphur or mercury. Near it is a still with a curious zigzag condenser called the "Serpent," used for distilling the "Water of Life" (alcohol) and the "Athanor," a furnace used when prolonged heat was necessary. The fuel was placed in a reservoir above the fire which it fed automatically.





SECTION IX

GROUND FLOOR—BACK

THE main part of this section is devoted to the history of war surgery and medicine. Prominent are the naval and military collections of material and pictures relating to the Great War (1914-1918).

Other sections refer to surgery in general, the history of the syringe, gas mask, splints, bandages, tourniquets, orthopædic appliances, etc., etc. Mediæval appliances for the reduction of dislocations, etc., are represented by actual examples, also by models. Pictures dealing with plague, leprosy, obstetrics, torture, etc., etc., are also represented.

In the south-west corner, the Lister Section is shown. Here is a section of the actual ward in which Lister practised his antiseptic system of surgery. The furniture and fittings are from the ward when it was demolished in 1924. In the adjacent cases will be found material used by Lister, including the collection loaned by the Glasgow Lister Memorial Committee.

In the south-eastern corner is a reconstruction of a lying-in room of the XVIth century.

Leading from the Ground Floor Back to the Pharmaceutical Section is a collection of pictures illustrating doctors' robes from early times to the present day.

SECTION X

GROUND FLOOR—FRONT

PHARMACEUTICAL SECTION

THE visitor is invited to inspect first the shops arranged round the sides of this Room in the following order :—

1. Alchemist's Laboratory. XVIth century.
2. London Chemist's Shop. XVIIIth century.
3. London Apothecary's Shop. XVIIth century.
4. Italian Pharmacy. XVIIth century.
5. Barber-Surgeon's Shop.
6. Chinese Drug Shop (Model).
7. Turkish Drug Shop.

The cases in the centre of the room illustrate early, rare and Oriental *materia medica*, etc. ; mandrakes ; narcotics and stimulants ; medicine chests ; pill-making apparatus ; hygiene ; measures of time and weight, etc.

At the south end, the collection of drug pots, etc., is arranged geographically. In Case 335 are weights and measures from all parts of the world. The collection of mortars is on the east side, between the Alchemist's Laboratory and the London Chemist's Shop. In the remaining cases are objects showing various phases of the druggist's craft. Suspended from the ceiling are apothecaries' signs, etc.

OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE
WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1913

ADDRESS BY
THE CHAIRMAN, SIR NORMAN MOORE, BT.
M.A., LL.D., M.D., F.R.C.P.
*THEN PRESIDENT OF THE SECTION OF HISTORY
OF MEDICINE, XVIITH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF MEDICINE*

Mr. Wellcome, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been asked to declare this Museum open because I chance to be President of the Section of the History of Medicine in the International Medical Congress, which is to be held in London in the month of August. I am glad to have the opportunity of speaking on this occasion, because I feel that this Museum will be a most important aid to the Section of the Congress over which I preside ; and that it will be of interest not only to that particular section, but probably to nearly the whole of the seven thousand people, who, from all the ends of the earth, are coming to London to attend the Congress.

Museums are so familiar to all of us at the present day, that we are, perhaps, inclined to think that they have existed from the beginning of time ; but that is not the case. They are comparatively modern aids to

study. Dr. John Dee, some of whose books we have in the library of the Royal College of Physicians, collected, in connection with his library, a small museum in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It consisted chiefly of mathematical and astronomical instruments, and various other curiosities. It was not a very important collection, and most of it was destroyed by a mob who thought that Dr. John Dee was a malignant necromancer.

The first important museum which was founded in England was that of John Tradescant, and of his son, John Tradescant, at Lambeth. The two Tradescants were primarily gardeners. They brought to England many of the shrubs which you see in the gardens all round London at the present day. They also collected herbs in relation to medicine ; and they formed this first general museum. The catalogue of their museum was published by the younger Tradescant in the year 1656. It contains no less than fifteen separate sections of curiosities ; birds, beasts, fishes, plants, insects, warlike instruments, coins, medals, and so on ; concluding with a list of the benefactors of the museum.

Many of us here present have seen one specimen from that museum. It is in two parts ; and consists of the head and foot of the extinct dodo, now preserved in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford. In the darker times of that University—you know all Universities, even the greatest, occasionally have periods in which their knowledge is clouded by indolence—in one of those dark periods, the University of Oxford destroyed the body of this unique bird ; but fortunately its head and foot are still preserved.

The museum of the Tradescants went to Elias Ashmole—the younger Tradescant left it to him—and so it became the basis of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.

Soon after their time, a very important museum was founded in London by James Petiver. James Petiver was a man educated at Rugby School, and must be regarded as one of the glories of that celebrated foundation. He came up to London and was apprenticed to Mr. Feltham, the apothecary to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He throve in his occupation and became apothecary to the Charterhouse. While there, in addition to performing the duties of that station, and carrying on an extensive medical practice, he made entomological and botanical collections from all parts of the world ; and, in course of doing so, he came to know a great number of sea captains ; and those captains brought him other things than plants and insects, and in that way his museum came to contain every description of natural object. Petiver had also a very considerable library ; and it is worth remembering that all these early museums were associated with libraries.

Petiver died in 1718 ; and Sir Hans Sloane, President of the College of Physicians and of the Royal Society, bought all his collections. He had previously bought the museum which was kept in the rooms of a Mr. Curten, or Charlton—because he called himself both—in the Temple ; and Sloane added many more specimens to these collections ; and so formed a great library and a museum in almost every part of science. That museum, as you all, I am sure, know, he presented to the nation

under certain conditions. It was the beginning of the British Museum. It was, therefore, primarily a library surrounded by collections of the specimens which illustrated everything that was recorded in the books of that library. That was the original view, in the first times of their formation, of museums. There is a very interesting catalogue of one such museum, that of Francis Calceolari in Verona, which appeared in the year 1622. It covers 800 pages folio, and gives an idea of the eagerness of collectors at that time, and also of the wide scope of interest which they felt. There is a picture of the museum at the beginning of the catalogue. It was an oblong room, with a floor of variegated marbles, and round the walls were dressers with drawers in which were specimens, while on the shelves of the dressers there were specimens in bottles, and isolated dry ones, and on the top several stuffed birds. On one side of the museum was a statue of Atlas bearing the world, as if to show that the specimens came from every part of it; on the other side, one of Minerva, as if to indicate that every kind of learning might obtain aid from it. From the roof there hung numerous dried reptiles and fishes. There were books at one end. Such was the first idea of a museum. "Whatever the earth possesses, whatever has been hidden in the depths of the sea, the toil and skill of Francis Calceolari has collected," says a Latin poem affixed to the catalogue.

The gift of Dr. William Hunter to the University of Glasgow was another museum of this type. It contains pathological, anatomical and natural history specimens, manuscripts, books, pictures and coins.

Such a museum we have at the present day exactly upon the original plan, a great library surrounded by illustrative collections, in the British Museum. Long may it continue so. It is enormously to the public advantage to have at least one such universal collection in our midst. A few years later a more limited kind of museum began to be formed. The celebrated Sir Thomas Browne, of Norwich, had an eldest son, Dr. Edward Browne, who, after taking his Bachelor of Medicine degree at Cambridge, in 1664, came up to London. He has left a very interesting journal of what he did on this visit, and in it he mentions going to see Edmund King, who lived in Little Britain and was surgeon to St. Bartholomew's. Edmund King showed him his collection of anatomical preparations, all of them of intense interest to this young bachelor of medicine.

That was an example of a collection relating to one subject only. Woodward, the geologist, soon after made that collection of fossils in small cabinets which is to be seen to this day at Cambridge, where he founded the Professorship of Geology.

Many other special collections were made ; but the greatest of them all was that of John Hunter. He, in his own house, collected a vast series of specimens, not by chance, but as illustrating the principles which he had in his mind, and the truths which he was endeavouring to seek out ; a collection mainly concerned with comparative anatomy and pathology, and normal anatomy, and containing some other specimens as well. That collection, as you all know, is at present under the charge of Sir Rickman Godlee and his colleagues of the Royal

College of Surgeons, who have proved themselves admirable custodians and improvers of the collection, and have added specimens in every direction, so that they have produced one of the greatest special museums in Europe.

Of special museums, the one which I have been asked to declare open to-day is a fresh example. A museum illustrating the history of medicine has never before been attempted in England.

The history of medicine is a subject which may be pursued in a great many ways. It divides itself into two great branches, and those two branches, I think, are very well typified by two of the figures which I can see before me on the ground floor.

The first is a curious creature with a black mask, with feathers in its head, with a necklace of the teeth of the Spermaceti whale, and with a curious instrument of incantation in its right hand and pointing out with its left, so that I can imagine the creature uttering a strange ejaculation. This is Ixtlilton, the god of medicine of the ancient Mexicans. He may be taken to represent that part of the origin of medicine which has to do with local superstitions, with charms and amulets and incantations.

The other aspect of the history of medicine is typified by the cast of the statue of the Apollo Belvedere, that statue which is perhaps the grandest representation in sculpture of manly intelligence, manly strength and manly beauty. Apollo, the god who, in the Greek mythology, was associated with medicine, in several

ways with the control of diseases and, as their thoughts curiously ran, with the causation of disease. Apollo and his son, Asklepios, whose statue is here also, seem thoughtful men, capable of observation, and full of the power of reasoning from observation. They thus present another view of the history of medicine. We can easily feel that they represent men who were the true ancestors, the true observing predecessors, of Hippocrates and Galen and Avicenna.

When we read Hippocrates and Galen, and when we search through the vast pages of Avicenna, all of us who do it carefully must feel that the path from them to Harvey and Glisson and Sydenham and Matthew Baillie and Lister, long though it be, is nevertheless a continuous track, and that those men of the past—Hippocrates, Galen and Avicenna—were the true predecessors, and were men of the same turn of mind, the same kind of thought, the same hope of enlarging medicine by observation, that Harvey, Glisson, Sydenham, Matthew Baillie and Lister were.

The two directions, in one of which most students of the history of medicine are inclined to tread, are towards folk-lore or towards the aspect of medicine as part of the history of the already cultivated human mind. For my part I am inclined to prefer the latter, without in the least wishing to belittle the former.

Those who like the line of study which is typified by Ixtlilton will find in the entrance hall plenty to engage their attention. There they may see very many fetishes and the curious dresses of the medicine men of West and Central Africa ; numerous charms in use there among the

pagan tribes ; and the great god of medicine of New Zealand. Such are very appropriately placed near the entrance of this Museum.

You come on into the room in which we are at present, in which, besides the Cheiron, Apollo, Hygieia and Ixtlilton, are placed models of the gods that presided over medicine among the Chaldeans, the Egyptians and other ancient nations ; and in the cases are numbers of instruments showing their variation from remote times. I am merely trying to give you a general idea of what are the contents of the Museum through which you will shortly walk.

Then you come to the staircase, and there are the three Saints who are connected in Christian theology with the study of medicine—Saint Luke, Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian ; and as you come up the staircase you find on the walls many paintings. These are enlargements of illuminations occurring in manuscripts, and are a most instructive series, illustrating illnesses and operations and the care of the sick.

Then, in the cases round the gallery, you will see numbers of charms and amulets. Now do not think that these charms and amulets are all matters of the Middle Ages. Many of these have been collected in the East End of London or in various parts of the countryside in England in our own day.

I remember very well the first occasion on which I became aware of the fact that charms and amulets are part of the living belief of educated people, in many cases, in this country. I was staying at a house in the Highlands, where a lady, who was also a guest, one day produced

from her pocket what seemed to be a small hard stone and showed it to me and asked me if I knew what it was. I said that I thought it was a stone, perhaps picked up on the seashore. "No," she said, "it is a potato. It has obtained this hardness by being carried in my pocket. I carry it as a remedy for chronic rheumatism from which I have long suffered." I asked where it came from. "Well," she said, "I am not ashamed to tell where it came from. I was staying at Dunrobin when I heard of this remedy, but I was in this difficulty : I was told that the potato would do my rheumatism no good unless it was stolen. I could not bear to strain my conscience even to purchase my health, so I told the Duchess of Sutherland of my difficulty, and she said : ' Oh, there is no difficulty ; steal a potato out of the garden, it is the Duke's potato, he will not know of it, it will be effectually stolen for your purpose.' "

So accordingly the lady stole the potato and carried it in her pocket, and, according to her own account, was cured of rheumatism. Well, I came back to London and told this to Sir James Paget, who was then flourishing. " Oh," he said, " when, some years back, I had to attend a lady of very high rank in this country, who had some affection of her knee-joint, I constantly received letters begging me to introduce freshly-peeled potatoes or new potatoes into her bed, or to put them in a basket under the bed, assuring me that if I did so she would at once get well."

Now that, which was the first definite superstition in relation to an amulet which I ever came across in life, is most interesting, because you will observe that, as the

potato was only introduced into this country in the reign of King James I, the superstition cannot have had its origin in the Middle Ages, or the Dark Ages, or classical times ; it is a modern thing.

Now that is one value of the history of medicine ; that it opens one's eyes to the fact that so little changed, in spite of education, in spite of civilisation, is the human mind, that a superstition of that sort with regard to an amulet may grow up at the present day. Many more such are illustrated by the specimens here.

In the next room you will find a series of pictures, busts and medals, illustrating the career of physicians and surgeons and men concerned in the sciences relating to medicine. It would take me too long if I were to try to dwell upon many of them, or any of them, in fact.

At the far end you will see the largest series which I believe has ever been collected of portraits of the celebrated Harvey, and amongst them a bust of him, which very few people have seen, because the original is upon his tomb in the remote village of Hempstead, in Essex. When the late Sir George Paget, the brother of Sir James, had taken his degree, having studied at St. Bartholomew's, he was so filled with enthusiasm for Harvey that he went on a pilgrimage to Hempstead and there saw the original of this bust, and had several copies of it made, of which that is one. Sir George Paget also gave one to St. Bartholomew's, and one to Caius College. It is a very remarkable bust, obviously taken from Harvey during his lifetime. On the walls you will find the portrait of almost every physician you have heard of in England.

Sir Thomas Barlow will recognise a large number of his predecessors in the illustrious office which he discharges with so much distinction—that of President of the Royal College of Physicians.

The next room contains a very fine series of early printed books referring to medicine and surgery. In the time of Queen Elizabeth there were large numbers of books relating to medicine and to surgery—more to surgery, by far, than to medicine—published in London. Physicians at that time did not think that it was consistent with propriety to write in any language except Latin, but surgeons held a different view. They were chiefly concerned with operative proceedings and lived among the people. One of them at that time, I remember, says : “ Some people say that we ought to know Latin ; for my part I care nothing whether a surgeon know Latin or not, so he be a good artist,” meaning so that he is able to operate well.

I do not think that writer on English literature have done these surgeons sufficient justice ; they have not observed how admirably, in the little anecdotes which they give in relation to their cases, they have brought out the life of the time in the everyday language of the time. Many of their books are in this Museum.

There are also a number of diplomas for degrees. In the Italian Universities the diplomas for degrees were beautifully illuminated, and they contain very quaint forms of inauguration which have long been forgotten in our Universities. A ring was put upon the finger of each doctor ; he was in some cases given a kiss on admission to the faculty ; he was crowned with laurel.

There are also some manuscripts—Latin, Arabic and Persian—on medicine; and there is one specimen of that very interesting document, an “album amicorum.” When people studied at several Universities, as they often did in the 17th century, they used to have a blank book in which they got each professor whose lectures they attended, and each friend whom they made, to write a little inscription, and some of these inscriptions are most charming. The professors wrote showing their knowledge of the particular man, or their wishes for his prosperity in the future. The students at the University, instead of writing, sometimes drew a little picture, not always having any particular reference to medicine. I remember one in which there is a young lady very gorgeously dressed, a white horse prancing, and a peacock spreading its tail, and underneath is written:

“Ein Pfau, eine Frau und ein Pferd

Sind die drei stolzeste Thiere auf Erd.”

I suppose the young lady was perhaps the object of the affections of the student, and that his friend wrote thus as a sort of warning to him.

Now, following those rooms, you go downstairs, and there you come into a vast area containing very many specimens; along one wall there is a series of pictures of Florence Nightingale—in many of the cases there are all kinds of what one would call instruments of nursing rather than of medicine or surgery.

There is a model of the operating table of Ambroise Paré. You will remember that he was the French surgeon who first hit upon the great idea, almost by chance, that it was better not to pour oil and wine into wounds,

but to do them up without those additions. Then you come to a series of models illustrating the medical life of other times.

Some great teachers of history have urged that you ought to begin with what you can know perfectly in your own time, and so gradually go back to the times of less knowledge ; and Mr. Wellcome has followed this plan.

The first thing that strikes your eye is a pharmacist's shop which many of us can remember in Oxford Street, which was built in the last decade of the 18th century. There it is, with its window of small panes, containing a great variety of pharmacist's jugs and jars within it. Then, as you go on, if you look at the ceiling, you will perceive printed upon it the prescription for Theriaca. Theriaca was the preparation known to mediæval and even to classical (because it is mentioned by Galen) medicine which contained almost the largest number of ingredients of any compound drug ; I say " almost " because at one time there were some that contained more, but Theriaca had plenty. In that formula there are 75 ingredients. It was thought a good remedy for the plague. An attempt was made to remove it from the Pharmacopœia in the year 1746 ; but the English are a very conservative nation, and it was not possible to do so. It was not removed from the London Pharmacopœia till the year 1788.

Just beyond this wonderful prescription, there are a great many beautiful Italian apothecary's jars ; and then you come to an apothecary's shop in the Old Bailey in the year 1662.

There is the apothecary, reading a herbal in his shop. a crocodile and lizard hanging from the ceiling, and the blue pots, which are proper to an apothecary, are round him on the shelves. When you are looking at him, do not think of him as an illiterate or an ignorant man. Do not think of him as a charlatan. He was not anything of that kind.

We had at St. Bartholomew's at that very period an apothecary named Francis Bernard, who stayed in London throughout the plague. Later in life he was given a degree at Cambridge; and he became Physician to the Hospital and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. He had one of the most splendid libraries of his time. I have often read the pages of his catalogue and wondered where the astonishing riches which he had have gone.

Well, Francis Bernard—as the Master of the Society of Apothecaries, himself a learned man, who is here to-day, will tell you—was no exception in his profession. There were many apothecaries of that time who lived in shops like the one in this Museum, who were men of extensive reading, and who made valuable additions in many directions in science, and particularly in botany.

Next to this apothecary's shop is the workroom of an alchemist; and exactly opposite it is a series of pictures of the plague; so that one's mind is immediately turned to Ben Jonson's famous play. You will remember in it how a citizen goes out of town owing to the plague; and how an alchemist, through his servants, gets possession of the house, and carries on all sorts of incantations in it. He was such an alchemist as is modelled here.

The next room illustrating the subject is an early Italian pharmacy, with all its beautiful jars perfectly arranged, unbroken, on a series of shelves. Of course, since your mind has been turned to the theatre, and you have thought of Ben Jonson's alchemist, when you see this shop, you cannot help thinking at once of Romeo and Juliet ; but you will see that the pharmacist of the Italian pharmacy of Mr. Wellcome's Museum had thriven much more in his business than the poor apothecary in Mantua who sold Romeo the poison.

Next to these illustrations is a model of a barber-surgeon at work upon the injured skull of a patient. Shaving bowls hang round, and other implements of his occupation. Do not think of him as an ignorant mechanical person. He was not that. The circumstances of the time made him, as William Clowes, one of the barber-surgeons, said, not the least ashamed of being able to shave a man or cut his hair well ; but he really had the scientific turn, the intelligence to search after the truth, the desire to cause his patients the minimum of pain, and to cure them with the greatest rapidity, of the modern surgeon.

Such a barber-surgeon was this William Clowes, who was surgeon to St. Bartholomew's in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He began his life by serving as a surgeon in the army ; and he was present at that famous field of Zutphen, made illustrious by the death of Sir Philip Sidney. He came back to London and practised his profession ; and he resigned his post upon the hospital staff in order that he might serve in the fleet against the Spanish Armada. He wrote several books, all of them

fine examples of vernacular English and containing very many illustrations of life in the Shakespearean period.

There is just one more of these representations of past medical life. It is the house of a surgeon of the Empire at Pompeii. There he sits, a man of obviously thoughtful mind, with some few instruments beside him. When one tries to decide whether he was competent, and how far he was competent in his profession, you have to look into the general literature of the time.

In Petronius Arbiter, an author who is supposed to give a good idea of life in a small provincial town outside Rome, near Naples, in fact just where this surgeon is supposed to have lived, it is mentioned that a man had a silver skeleton, with all the joints so made that the limbs could be turned in any direction, and all the vertebræ of the spinal column could be moved so that the spine could be bent in any way. Where such a skeleton was an ornament of a wealthy man's house, it is easy to imagine that the practising surgeon must have had considerable knowledge of anatomy and of the other parts of his profession.

Now there are, of course, innumerable other things which I might mention to you in this unique Museum. I will not detain you with any of them, because you will now have the opportunity of going to look at them; but I should like to point out one thing before I sit down, and it is this: That it is a just subject of pride that in our country so many splendid museums—those of the Tradescants, of Petiver, of Curten, of Sir Hans Sloane, the Geological Museum of Woodward, the Museum of

William Hunter which is at Glasgow, the Museum of John Hunter which is at the Royal College of Surgeons—have all been formed by the exertions and at the cost of private individuals.

This Museum is no exception; it has been formed entirely at the expense, and by the exertions, of Mr. Wellcome, who has followed these good precedents. A lectureship in the history of medicine was founded by a private benefactor at the Royal College of Physicians in 1901, and is at present the only one in England. Mr. Wellcome's Museum will be a most important addition to the means of studying the History of Medicine. I now declare it open.

SIR THOMAS BARLOW, Bt., K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., etc., *President of the Royal College of Physicians; President of the XVIIIth International Congress of Medicine*: Mr. Wellcome, Ladies and Gentlemen, you will all be most anxious to join in thanking Dr. Norman Moore for his most illuminating and most fascinating address. I should like, if it is not quite unseemly, to add one name to the glorious roll of the cultivators of museums, and that is one who has just been taken from us—I mean Sir Jonathan Hutchinson. This is no place and no time to make any appreciation of that great man; but it is fitting that we should remember that he was one of those who consistently maintained the obligation of developing museums, not only for the advance of medicine, but for the general advancement of culture throughout the length and breadth of the land. He had made great sacrifices, not

only for his collection of pathological specimens, but likewise for those educational museums which he founded at Haslemere and the place of his birth, at which he attempted to show the value of the chronological study of human affairs throughout the centuries. At this time, I think, it is fitting to remember with gratitude Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, who did so much in this direction.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am sure that everybody present in this Museum at some time or other has had to face the problem—the ever-recurring problem—of what is justifiable luxury and what is not justifiable luxury. I am sure that not only is that so in great affairs, but it has been the lot of many of those who are around me to stand before an etching, or a water-colour, or an old Greek coin, or some charming specimen, whatever it may be, and ask himself how far it was right for him to spend money on something of this kind, and how far it was justifiable for him to do it.

I will affirm, without fear of being contradicted, that Mr. Wellcome himself, during the long period in which he has spent so much time and so much energy in getting together this magnificent collection, must have had now and again the same question occur to his conscience ; but, Ladies and Gentlemen, I think we may all of us assure him to-day, when we walk round, and when we think of the amount of intellectual enjoyment that will be given, when we think of the impetus to men and women of our own profession in the art of studying the evolution of medicine as we can see it here, and when we think of the enormous profit which will be given to

cultured men and women of thought and reading, not only of our profession, but who follow the old Roman adage : that nothing is foreign to us that is human—I say, when we think of all these things, we may, I think, rightly tell Mr. Wellcome that he may take comfort to his soul, and that he may feel that this Museum has been a case of justifiable luxury.

I think the years will come when, as he reflects and considers what happiness and what instruction this Museum has given to this generation, and will give to generations to come, it will be a pleasure to him to remember that it was inaugurated by one who is without doubt one of the ablest scholars in the study of the history of medicine.

SIR FREDERICK TREVES, Bt., G.C.V.O., C.B., F.R.C.S., etc., *Vice-President of the International Congress of Medicine* : Ladies and Gentlemen, I have very great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks that Sir Thomas Barlow has proposed to Dr. Norman Moore for his most learned and most interesting address. It tempts me to take the opportunity of expressing to Dr. Norman Moore what the medical profession owes to him for his contributions to the history of medicine, and the immense service he has done in observing and recording the lives of those who have been distinguished in the history of medicine and surgery in the past. It is an obligation impossible to discharge, and one I am quite sure that the whole of the profession very heartily appreciates.

I will not detain you with any comments on this Museum beyond saying this : it would be hard to exaggerate the importance and service of it. The progress of medicine has been so rapid as to be astounding and bewildering ; and a Museum of this kind, established and laid out as Mr. Wellcome has laid it out, enables one to pause for a moment and look back on the route that we have traversed. We have reached a height, possibly a great height, and it is well to look down into the plain that we have crossed, and to see by what steps we have reached the position that we now occupy.

I take it that progress in a matter like medicine and surgery proceeds on lines that, although they appear to us to be exceedingly diverse, have yet beneath them one or two common principles ; and one cannot help noticing in this Museum, so far as the art and science of surgery are concerned, in what narrow lines that progress has been made ; and, knowing that and studying it, one can forecast to some extent in what direction progress in the future will move.

It is curious in this collection of surgical instruments to see that, although one supposes there is really no limit to human ingenuity, there is no limit to adaptation and to enterprise in the matter of adapting means to an end ; it is curious to see, having that impression, upon what very simple lines progress has been made in connection with surgical instruments.

Invariably they begin as complicated instruments and gradually become simpler and simpler until they resolve themselves into some of those very commonplace instruments that we are so familiar with at the present

time. I will say no more except to very heartily second the vote of thanks which has been proposed to Dr. Norman Moore.

DR. NORMAN MOORE: Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you very much for your kind vote of thanks. I am glad to have interested you; but there is a person here to whom your thanks are much more due, and I will ask Sir Rickman Godlee to propose a vote of thanks to him.

SIR RICKMAN GODLEE, Bt., M.S., M.B., B.A., F.R.C.S., etc., *President of the Royal College of Surgeons*: Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the pleasure and great honour of rising to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Wellcome, the patron of this wonderful feast which is laid before us—I almost feel that I ought to propose his health, when one thinks of the dangerous regions to which he goes.

I had the pleasure, yesterday afternoon, of being taken round by Mr. Wellcome for a short time to some parts of this glorious Museum; and I was very much struck with the interesting way, and the very modest way, in which he showed me some of his magnificent treasures.

But there is another side to Mr. Wellcome's character, or to his occupation, which few of us know; and that is one which is carried on very far away, in some of the most distant parts of the King's dominions.

I think Mr. Wellcome is a very fortunate man, in the first place, to be here this afternoon, to see all the treasures he has collected looked at by an admiring crowd;

and, in the next place, because he has a hobby which, at the same time, is extremely fascinating and also intensely useful.

Mr. Wellcome has, as we know, laboratories in Africa. We know that he has not only a laboratory on land, but he also has that wonderful floating laboratory, of which you will see a model in the front of this Museum, with which he carries the war, it may be said, right into the enemy's camp ; for he and the laboratory staff, protected by a wire gauze screen, can attack the mysteries of the mosquito by day and sleep secure from them by night.

From time to time there are issued from those laboratories most beautiful reports, written by the Director and his collaborators, which show us not only the country in which they move, but the ghosts of the inhabitants who dwell there, and the flies which kill them.

This brings home to us very vividly the sort of work which Mr. Wellcome is doing. It shows us not only that he is greatly interested in the study of tropical diseases ; but also that he is interested in the study of anthropology ; and all these things are combined in this marvellous Museum. I think, however, that the point which we particularly wish to thank Mr. Wellcome for this afternoon is the great public spirit he has shown in expending his time and his wealth in forming this valuable Museum.

I am very glad to see in the foreword, which is put at the commencement of the catalogue, that it is his intention that ultimately this Museum shall be a permanent asset to the nation. I wish, Ladies and

Gentlemen, from all these points of view, to tender our sincere thanks to Mr. Wellcome for the collection that he has made and for inviting us here this afternoon to its opening.

SIR FRANCIS CHAMPNEYS, Bt., M.D., M.A., F.R.C.P., etc., *President of the Royal Society of Medicine* : Ladies and Gentlemen, I rise with very great pleasure to second the vote of thanks to Mr. Wellcome for this magnificent addition to the Museums of this Metropolis.

I think the feeling that strikes my mind most at the present time is that of envy of my juniors. One is just ending one's career, and one only wonders what one would have been if one had had the opportunity of starting with all the knowledge that now opens before one's juniors. It is harking back to the old that is so very exciting, I think, in the present day.

Those who have the opportunity of studying a collection of this sort, and going back to see what their ancestors did and thought, and what the inhabitants of distant lands have thought and are thinking about this great study of disease, cannot fail to have their imagination excited in a way which surely must bear fruit.

This seems to me to be the most fruitful part of such a study as that of the history of medicine. I know that it is recognised in the Universities to a great extent where Professors of Medicine and, no doubt, other subjects, show those who are beginning their studies some of the finest things that have been attained in the past.

Now I do not think that anything that has been recently done in London is more likely to excite the imagination of the medical student than a collection of this kind. I shall certainly, as far as my influence goes, beg those young men over whom I may have any influence, who are beginning the study of medicine, to come here and to study carefully all the fine things which they may see here, so as to begin with their minds set in the right direction. I will not do more than cordially second the vote of thanks to Mr. Wellcome, and trust that his great enterprise and generosity will bear fruit which he himself will live to see.

MR. HENRY S. WELLCOME : Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am deeply grateful for the generous expressions which have fallen from Sir Rickman Godlee, Sir Francis Champneys and the other speakers. Our special thanks are due to Sir William Osler, Dr. Norman Moore, Mr. D'Arcy Power, Dr. Raymond Crawford, Dr. A. J. Chalmers, and many other eminent men throughout the world who have so liberally assisted me in many ways with kind advice, valuable suggestions and the utmost co-operation, which have contributed immensely to the success of this undertaking.

Many have manifested their keen interest by lending, and, in numerous instances, generously presenting, objects of the highest historical importance. I may also say that many of the great Institutions have been equally liberal in their co-operation and assistance. Also our thanks are due to members of my staff who have

taken part in the work of classifying and arranging these exhibits. Their task has been, as you will appreciate, very great.

The official connection of this Museum with the International Medical Congress shortly to be held in London, of which Sir Thomas Barlow is the President, and our Chairman to-day is the President of the Section of the History of Medicine, greatly encourages me in this undertaking. The co-operation of the Section of History of Medicine will greatly enhance the value and usefulness of the Museum.

This Museum I regard as at its very beginning, though the collection and organisation have occupied many years. It is my intention to found in London a Bureau of Scientific Research (applause), and to appoint, as the Director-in-Chief, Dr. Andrew Balfour, who for nearly 12 years has rendered such distinguished and fruitful service as Director of the Tropical Research Laboratories at Khartoum. I am gratified to see Dr. Balfour present with us to-day. The tribute Sir Rickman Godlee paid to me with regard to the work of those laboratories should be paid mainly to Dr. Andrew Balfour. This Historical Museum might well form a fitting and permanent adjunct to the Bureau of Scientific Research.

It is my idea and my intention that this Museum shall be a permanent institution. The value of history to research workers is beyond estimation. Reviewing the failures as well as the successes in the great past is not only informative but is often inspiring. In the course of my long researches into the history of medicine,

I have come to the conclusion that we can gain a great deal of useful information from primitive peoples in the art of healing, and particularly in surgery.

In my own personal experiences amongst primitive races, I have sometimes found traces of the origin of what are usually regarded as entirely modern discoveries. Some things have been discovered in remote ages and lost, or forgotten, and re-discovered. Some ancient discoveries have continued in use through all the ages.

Dr. Reisner, in the course of his archæological excavations in Nubia, found some well-made bamboo splints, dating, I think, some 2000 or 3000 years B.C. Captain Anderson found similar splints in use in the Southern Sudan some years ago, and I myself have seen them in use in the Upper Blue Nile region. A few days ago, in Morocco City, Southern Morocco, I saw exactly similar splints being used, and secured them for this Museum. The perpetuity and the re-discovery of ancient devices are exceedingly interesting subjects for investigation.

In organising this Museum, my purpose has not been simply to bring together a lot of "curios" for amusement. This collection is intended to be useful to students and useful to all those engaged in research. I have found that the study of the roots and foundations of things greatly assists research, and facilitates discovery and invention.

I thank you all for honouring me by your presence.

RE-OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE
WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1926

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN, SIR HUMPHRY ROLLESTON, Bt., K.C.B., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., *Regius Professor of Physic, University of Cambridge*, who with DR. JOHN D. COMRIE, M.A., F.R.C.P., F.S.A., *Lecturer on the History of Medicine and Clinical Medicine, University of Edinburgh*, received the guests, in the unavoidable and deeply regretted absence of the Founder—(Mr. Henry S. Wellcome) :

Ladies and Gentlemen, the study of medical history is somewhat paradoxically a modern development, and its expansion in this country has been largely due to Dr. J. F. Payne, Sir W. Osler, Sir Clifford Allbutt, and especially to Sir N. Moore, who, as President of the Section of the History of Medicine of the International Congress of Medicine in London, opened for the first time this Museum on June 24, 1913. Since then it has grown from strength to strength, and, after a complete re-organisation, which necessitated its closure for eleven months, is virtually a new Museum. This research Museum is intended to be continually progressive ; not to remain as the last word in 1926, but to keep up with the advance of medicine. In the various groups, such as anatomy, physiology, chemistry, pharmacology,

orthopædics, obstetrics, psychiatry, massage and anti-septic surgery, it will show at a glance the evolution of ideas, discoveries and inventions in a really scientific manner. Thus, in addition to advances, it will elucidate the retrogressive changes which took place in some ancient eastern countries and in Europe during the dark ages.

Familiarity with what "famous men and our fathers who begat us" have done to build up our present state of knowledge has a great educational value. Further, it exerts a wholesome influence in making us feel modest from the realisation of what our professional ancestors did in so much less favourable circumstances; we may indeed even find that discoveries made, or largely anticipated, by them years ago and long forgotten, have independently again been brought to the light of modern eyes. It is salutary to look back and occasionally, as has been done with much advantage in the past, to act on the dictum "back to Hippocrates." The Great War carried the practice of surgery "back to Lister," the centenary of whose birth will be celebrated next year. Antiseptic surgery and anæsthetics are the two greatest milestones in the advance of surgery, and here is presented a collection of Listerian relics—unrivalled for its completeness; it includes part of Lister's Ward in the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, where he did his immortal work, which, had it not been for Mr. Wellcome's prompt action, would have been for ever lost when the building was demolished two years ago.

London is fortunate indeed in this unique Museum, and the whole medical profession are under a deep debt to Mr. H. S. Wellcome for his unbounded generosity and

enterprise in making and throwing open to us all this wealth of historical lore. It is indeed difficult to say what this Museum, with its contents and a library of more than 100,000 books, manuscripts and incunabula so quietly amassed, will mean to medicine in the future. Its resources have always been most freely at the call of those interested and working at the subject, as the Members of the Section of the History of Medicine know to their continual advantage.

Mr. Wellcome is greatly disappointed that, being unavoidably detained in America in connection with an important humanitarian mission of which he is in charge, he cannot be here to-night. He sends you his warmest greetings and wishes to bring to your notice the devoted labours of his staff in re-arranging the contents of the Museum, especially the great skill and enthusiastic devotion of Mr. L. W. G. Malcolm, who was trained in the evolution of scientific thought by the late Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, and he asks me to do the impossible, namely, to take his place as host.

WHAT SHOULD MUSEUMS DO FOR US?

HISTORICAL ADDRESS BY

SIR ARTHUR KEITH, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.

*Conservator of the Museum, Royal College of Surgeons,
England*

Often there comes back to me, when I think of what was happening in this great city in the middle of last century, a vision of the wan and studious face of Henry Thomas Buckle as it was bent over the manuscript of

his "History of Civilization in England." As he wrote in his study, a long, lofty gaunt room with Northern roof light, he was surrounded by thousands of manuscripts, deeds, documents and books—the material of history. Buckle thought, and there are many to-day who still share in his belief, that history could be written only in this way. Even when Buckle tells of the discoveries made by William Smith in the opening years of the nineteenth century—of how the crust of the earth was arranged in strata and that the order and age of the strata could be told by the fossils contained in them—he did not perceive that geologists had discovered a new way of writing history by deciphering things and not words. In this new way the history of the world on which we live is now being written; when geologists began to arrange their fossils in an orderly way on the shelves of a museum, that museum thereby became not only a history of the earth but of all the living things that had appeared on it during past times. Presently it was discovered that the early history of man himself could be written in the new way. In Buckle's boyhood—he was born in 1821 and died in 1862—the archæologists of Denmark discovered that it was possible still to write the early history of their own country. They searched ancient tombs and peat-mosses for all things which showed traces of man's handiwork and gathered them—each labelled and documented—on the shelves of a museum, and presently that museum became a history of Denmark. The archæologists perceived that Denmark had passed through three epochs—one, in which only stone or bone had been used for weapons or tools;

another, when stone and bone were being replaced by bronze ; and a third, in which iron began to be used instead of bronze. Hence the division of the prehistoric time into three periods—stone, bronze, and iron. History begins when a chronological table has been established, and we see this method of writing pre-history reaching a climax in the hands of Sir Arthur Evans ; the history of Crete has been deciphered by the spade and written on the shelves of the Museum at Knossus. It is in this way that the beginnings of our modern manner of living are being deciphered in Mesopotamia and Egypt. Museum-making and history-writing are the same thing.

England has a way of throwing up sporadic crops of great men ; she had a bumper crop in the 19th century ; Darwin, Galton, Taylor and Pitt-Rivers came along almost in a bunch—Darwin leading. It was Pitt-Rivers who demonstrated how reliable human history could be built up, bit by bit, in the shelves and show-cases of a museum ; it was he who made the spade an instrument of exact history in the hands of a trained observer ; it was he who pressed home the study of living primitive peoples as a clue to the customs, myths and beliefs of our long dead ancestors. What Pitt-Rivers did for human culture in general Mr. Wellcome has sought to do for a great branch of human knowledge—all that pertains to the art and science of healing. He has ransacked the world and brought together under one roof a rich, rare and vast assortment of materials for the history of Medicine such as has never before been seen or studied in any country. It would be dangerous in these times, when

we dispute so keenly how far men simply imbibe ideas and how far they beget them for themselves, to speculate as to the influence which the example of Pitt-Rivers may have had on Mr. Wellcome. I believe, in this case, we have an instance of independent origin. Be that as it may, I am convinced that we who have to do with the administration of museums will do well to adopt Pitt-Rivers as our Patron Saint.

Now the evolution or history of medicine is more difficult than any other branch of knowledge to illustrate by museum methods. The trend of evolution is nearly always towards complication ; if we trace the history of a man's fighting weapons, we begin with a few types of a simple kind and we end in these modern days with the innumerable and highly differentiated engines of war. But in Medicine it is otherwise ; even amongst the most primitive races of mankind, we find that the practice of medicine is founded on an elaborate code of beliefs ; these beliefs are the fine-drawn gossamer of savage fancy—altogether too delicate threads for the clumsy fingers of museum curators to touch. If our task were merely to illustrate how the Medicine Man, whose image you will see to-night in his hut in New Guinea, seated amidst the simple and uncouth emblems of his art, becomes the fashionable physician of Harley Street with the artillery of modern science at his disposal, there would be no technical difficulty, for from the countries which lie between New Guinea and Harley Street we could cull a perfect series of ascending forms—an intermediate series of the kind which is so dear to the hearts of museum curators. Our difficulties begin when

we seek to portray how the native practitioner looks upon the human body when it is well and when it is ill. Until we have surmounted this difficulty we cannot appreciate the riches which are shown in Mr. Wellcome's "Hall of Primitive Medicine."

To give a concrete representation of the beliefs in which Medicine begins is particularly hard for men like myself. We have been trained to accept only what we can see and prove, to suppress all our childish notions. We find it almost impossible to take the mentality of primitive medicine seriously. It would have been otherwise with Lewis Carroll, the immortal creator of "Alice in Wonderland"; he understood how children reasoned and, therefore, could have entered the hearts of primitive men, without effort. There can be no doubt that in the play of his fancy, early man, like the primitive races of to-day, was a child and had a childish way of reasoning. The late and gifted Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, in his enquiries into the theory and art of Medicine among the natives of Melanesia, was able to lay aside the scientific armature of his mind and to adopt the point of view of the practitioners he encountered in primitive communities. He found that the rudest native practitioner had, like his counterpart of Harley Street, a definite theory of disease and that the means he adopted for its cure were a logical outcome of this theory. Had Lewis Carroll told a New Guinea medical man that after the material Cheshire cat had vanished its smile remained behind, the statement would have been accepted without the raising of an eyebrow. It must be a very long time ago since primitive man began to look

on the human body as a mere husk and the spirit within it as the real person, for this way of interpreting the living body is almost universal among native peoples. On this belief the native physician bases his treatment of disease. If a man is to be free from illness, his spirit must remain free, intact, uninjured. Illness, the native holds, springs from the spirit—not, as we believe, from the flesh. If the spirit be driven out of the body and forsakes it permanently, then death occurs. This is how the Melanesian explains death to himself and to his patients. Hence, a native practitioner's business is to discover in what way injury or damage has fallen on his patient's spirit, and, as these injuries are usually caused by other spirits or baneful influences, it is clear that a native, to practise successfully, must have studied and mastered the ways and wiles of these immaterial beings and things. The expert native practitioner is he who can best cajole the cloud of spirits which permeate the air of primitive communities.

As we dig into the beginnings of Medicine we find that its foundations are laid on leechcraft, witchcraft and priestcraft. The early physician was also magician and priest. Unless you have grasped this truth you will altogether fail to understand Mr. Wellcome's "Hall of Primitive Medicine"; for in that Hall you will find a wealth of amulets, charms, talismans, mascots, phylacteries, totems, fetishes, divination bowls, effigies, idols, masks and ceremonial dresses. When you examine the contents of that room you are really surveying a massed field of therapeutic artillery—the batteries by which ancient physicians sought to banish illness and

disease from their patients, thus staving off death. The counterparts of the native artillery in Harley Street are the stethoscope, the bismuth meal, notebook for prescription, and a certain professional air.

I have drawn your attention to this part of Mr. Wellcome's collection for a special reason. When we seek to represent in a museum the theories and beliefs which guided the practice of Medicine in olden times, we encounter a grave difficulty. Let me explain the nature of this difficulty. If we dress a lay figure in a policeman's uniform, place a helmet on the head, a baton in one hand and handcuffs in the other, and lay open the policeman's notebook at the page he made his last entry, we bring before our visitors such a representation of law and order as enters their understanding without any further explanation. But suppose we have merely the arm badge of a special constable at our disposal ; how are we to make our visitors understand its full significance if they have never encountered a policeman in their life ? That is just the difficulty we have to face in representing early stages in the evolution of Medicine ; the divination bowl, fetish, amulet, charm, mascot and effigy are but the symbols of the ancient practitioner's art ; each is pregnant with significance ; it needs a world of knowledge to interpret that significance. It is otherwise in all the modern departures of Medicine. You will have an opportunity to-night of examining in this Museum all the stages in the evolution of utensils, apparatus and instruments employed in modern Medicine and Surgery ; never before has the story of surgical instruments been told with such a

wealth of illustration as will fall under your eyes here. The microscope is the main instrument of medical progress ; this Museum contains its full history in the great collection shown in the Gallery. Never before have such pains been taken and so much wealth lavished to secure exact reproductions of the conditions amidst which druggist, chemist and apothecary carried out their respective callings in past times. You will see the actual ward from the old Infirmary of Glasgow in which Lord Lister banished from the world for ever some of the most dreaded of human sufferings. If you are inclined to think that the value of this exhibit is sentimental rather than useful, a glance at its bare, ugly walls and its sordid equipment will alter your opinion. I was trained in just such a ward and know that the picture here preserved is true to its time. The men and women of a younger generation, who have grown up in clean bright wards with modern equipment, can only realise the blessings which progress has brought them when they view the ward in which Lord Lister's patients lay as he and his nurses ministered to their needs.

You will turn away from Lord Lister's ward devoutly thankful that it is now only a historical record ; it depicts a state of matters which we have left behind us. It is possible, as you walk through the Hall of Primitive Medicine and your eye catches again the weird and uncouth equipments of native witch-doctors which cover its walls and fill its cases, that you will view these exhibits as mere flotsam and jetsam from the Dead Sea of Medicine—one which enlightened England has long

since swept away. I should like to think this is so, but when I see, as I sometimes do, mascots on the motor cars of the wealthy, charms and amulets treasured by many people—both rich and poor—ignorant and educated ; when I see, as I occasionally do, the quack preferred to the man who has given his life to the study of rational Medicine ; and when I see learned men call in spirits to explain unusual physical phenomena ; then I am not quite so certain that this part of Mr. Wellcome's Museum does represent altogether a past stage of things. In all of us there still remains more than a trace of the primitive man.

Now I come to what is the main matter of my discourse. What is the service that such a Museum as this should render to Medicine ? Let me put the question on a wider basis. What should museums do for us ? You will pardon my immodesty if I refer for a moment to the services which museums have rendered to myself. Thirty-five years ago I returned from a sojourn in the East, where I had accumulated a great many facts relating to anatomy, and in my pocket just enough money to secure food and lodging for a year or two. My little cargo of anatomical facts was of no use in the world of learning until it had been compared with and added to cargoes brought home by previous voyagers into the realms of Anatomy. It was my first duty to assimilate the publications of other workers and to study kindred material which had been gathered in our great Museums. The British Museum was thrown open to me ; in its Reading Room attendants brought and laid before me books and manuscripts of all times and of all

countries. The treasures in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, were placed freely at my disposal. The Museum which I have now the honour to be closely connected with, served me as a study and as a research room. All of these institutions were provided for me gratis, free and for nothing. I never enquired into the cost of running these great institutions during the years I was using them, but I can tell you what all three cost last year. The British Museum, Bloomsbury, required £221,000; the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, £100,000; the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, the most economical and best Museum of its kind in the world, £6000. Now that is a great sum of money; museums, as Mr. Wellcome knows well, are very costly machines to run, to say nothing of the initial cost of bricks and mortar, and also outfit. To produce an income of £327,000, the sum now spent annually on these three institutions, needs a capital of about 6½ millions. You can see, then, that in those early days of study and research in London I was, although I did not realise it, terribly wealthy. I had the privileges of a Cræsus—a multi-millionaire. At least I had at my disposal that which had cost millions. It is plain that museums as instruments of research are very costly, and you may ask if the country is getting an adequate return for its great outlay. Well, if I had been the only student who then enjoyed museum benefits, our country would have had an altogether unsatisfactory return for its expenditure, but I was only one of many of that generation. The generation which was young thirty years ago is now providing their country with leaders and teachers, and

England is reaping to-day the harvest she sowed in museums a generation ago. You see that I do not hesitate in regarding the increase of knowledge—the fostering of research—as the first duty of a museum. Unless a museum is permeated with a spirit of enquiry it is dead. It is not enough to furnish a museum with the materials needed by students; no conservator can understand what a student needs unless he is also a student. The staff of a museum must be permeated with the love of knowledge and know how it can be extended if their institution is to thrive; and no man can continue to be a student unless you give him an exit for his knowledge. Unless he is encouraged to coin his gold and pass it into circulation, his mint becomes choked. One knows that a museum is prospering when the members of its staff are participating in the proceedings of learned societies and contributing to their publications. One knows that a museum is fulfilling its primary function when its rooms and closets are frequented by research students from homelands, colonies and foreign countries, and one knows that its contents are being rightly used by the frequency of grateful acknowledgments in learned publications. The literature which issues from a museum determines its status, and in this literature I include catalogues.

If the first duty of a Museum, such as this of Mr. Wellcome, is to serve the needs of students and through students the public weal, there is a second duty no less important. There is its immediate duty to the public—the duty of direct education. It is this double duty of a museum that taxes the ingenuity of us conservators.

To expose the whole of our resources to the gaze of visitors would be to satiate—not to whet—their curiosity. We produce in them not only headache but mental dyspepsia. We have to select from our great stores on which special students regale themselves, just those prime pieces of instruction which, when set in a right order, tell their story with emphasis and without words. Such an art needs a special genius, just as “window-dressing” does in the world of commerce ; but I have noticed that the best elementary treatises are usually written by the most learned of our masters, and I am therefore hopeful that the most learned of our curators will also prove the greatest craftsmen in the art of “case-dressing.” It is an art which makes a special appeal to Mr. Wellcome, and he has surrounded himself with a staff of learned and expert men. He has chosen, as his Conservator, Mr. L. W. G. Malcolm, one who is already known by his important contributions to anthropology, and we all wish him and his colleagues the utmost success in fulfilling the aims which the founder of this Museum has in view.

All of us who regard museums not only as repositories of valuable things but as engines for the advancement of knowledge owe a debt to Mr. Wellcome. Students of history are usually poor men and this is particularly true of those who seek to unravel and write the true history of Medicine. The materials needed for our studies are far beyond the resources of our purses. There are those men, who, setting out in their careers to banish care by obtaining a sufficiency to carry them and theirs to the end of life’s journey, awake to find that wealth

accumulates on them so fast that affluence becomes more burdensome than the cares of poverty. Well! we who benefit from museums are not in this group of men. If a poor man has to seek comfort in philosophy, a rich man, if he is to retain his soul, has to seek it as a necessity. The other day it was my good fortune to read a book written by a man who has become both a millionaire and a philosopher. "I have long felt and believed," he tells us, "that every man who has attained material success should look upon himself as an investment, so to speak, which the community has made. In return for the opportunities given to him and for the financial results they have brought, it is up to him to yield dividends in service and in other things of value to the community." Long before this philosophy for wealthy men had been formulated, Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, in his own quiet but efficient way, had begun to put it into practice. He had come to the rescue of us poor students and put at our disposal, and for the ultimate good of mankind, this Museum with its rich and rare stores of knowledge culled from all the countries of the world and from all periods of time. He has lifted our poverty above all dreams of avarice and has thereby earned the lasting gratitude of all who believe that the safety of our civilisation lies in the progress and dissemination of knowledge.

SIR FREDERICK KENYON, K.C.B., G.B.E., M.A., D.LITT., LL.D., *Director of the British Museum* :—

Sir Humphry Rolleston, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasant privilege to propose a vote of thanks to the two speakers to whom we have just listened. That is

very easy : you have already in your own minds passed such a vote. No two better or more distinguished representatives could have been chosen of the two aspects of this Museum. Sir Humphry Rolleston has spoken for Medicine, Sir Arthur Keith for the History of Science. I will not presume to thank them for having come here to-night. They have come here, not to please us, but to do honour to the great benefactor to whom we owe this Museum. But we who have had the pleasure of listening to them would like to tell them how much we have enjoyed their addresses, and that we have taken to heart the wise words which they have spoken to us.

But there is another expression of thanks which we all have in our minds—our gratitude to and admiration for the founder of this Museum, Mr. Wellcome. It is a great grief to us that he is not himself present to-night. For years he has spent not only his money, but his personal labour, to promote the cause of research in the history of medicine. He has personally conducted excavations in the Sudan ; he has gathered materials from every part of the globe ; he has lavished money in the purchase of specimens, and in the manufacture of facsimiles when originals were not to be had ; and this great Museum is but one among a number of institutions for the promotion of research which he has founded—notably the Research Laboratories at Khartoum, the Bureau of Scientific Research, and the Chemical and Physiological Research Laboratories in London. And yet he has kept himself and his great work out of the limelight.

I presume that I owe the honour of being invited to address you to-night to the fact that I am connected with a great Museum. But on this score there is no occasion for me to say much to you, because Sir Arthur Keith has said all that need be said on this topic. He has laid down, clearly and emphatically, the two great functions of a museum—its duty to the student and its duty to the public; or, in other words, its services to research and its services to education. Now I believe I am right in saying that of these two functions, both of which must be constantly in the mind of the Director of a great public Museum such as that for which I am responsible, it is the first that is the prime object in Mr. Wellcome's mind. This Museum is before all things a museum for the student, an instrument of research. And here let me most emphatically endorse what Sir Arthur Keith has said as to the part played in such a museum by its staff. Where a museum contains, as this does, the materials for original research, it is essential that it should possess a staff capable, both in quantity and quality, of conducting research themselves and of assisting the researches of others. The two duties go together. It is only the man who knows what research is, and is acquainted with his subject, who can effectively help the researches of others. No one is better aware of this truth than Mr. Wellcome. Already there is a series of Research Studies in Medical History, issued under the auspices and imprint of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum (to which Sir D'Arcy Power, who is to follow me, has himself contributed); and I feel sure that things will be so arranged that this Museum will become,

not merely a storehouse of materials (invaluable though it will be in that respect), but also a College of Research, from which will proceed a succession of monographs which will promote the advancement of scientific knowledge.

There are two great men in the history of Medicine whom, above all others, I wish we could have seen present to-night ; two men, separated by more than 200 years in time, but akin in their wide knowledge and their tastes and interests ; two men, of whom the later had a peculiar devotion for the earlier, and both of whom would have taken the liveliest interest in this Museum. I mean Sir Thomas Browne and Sir William Osler. Can we not imagine what curious and illuminating reflections this wonderful collection would have stimulated in the mind of Sir Thomas Browne, and in what quaint and beautiful English he would have expressed them ? And Sir William Osler, the beloved friend of many of us here to-night, the devotee of Sir Thomas Browne, with his eager interest in the history of science, his alert and well-informed mind, his readiness to help every good work and to encourage every real student, would not he, of all men, have been at home in this Museum, and would not he, of all men, have appreciated its possibilities for good ? I can think of no two more appropriate patron saints for a Historical Medical Museum.

As an official representative of Museums, I welcome this addition to our fraternity, and am sure that it will reach the highest standard of service to the community, which is the ideal of every Museum that is worthy of the name. And as a member of this gathering, and on

your behalf, I offer to Sir Humphry Rolleston and Sir Arthur Keith our most sincere thanks for the pleasure and profit which we have received in listening to them.

SIR D'ARCY POWER, K.B.E., M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. : Sir Humphry Rolleston, Ladies and Gentlemen, I gladly second this vote of thanks to Sir Humphry Rolleston for presiding over us this evening, and to Sir Arthur Keith for giving us one of those charming lectures which we always expect from him and are never disappointed. It gives me an opportunity, too, of adding my tribute of praise to the value of the Wellcome Historical Museum on this occasion of its re-opening after the thorough cleaning and re-arrangement to which it has been subjected. I was present when the Museum was formally opened by Sir Norman Moore in 1913, and I may claim perhaps to be the one who has profited most largely by Mr. Wellcome's liberality in throwing open the collection to every student of the history of medicine. The Museum is unique, for no other nation has yet gathered together the remains of former practices in every branch of medicine from the earliest days in man's history to the present time.

There is still more than a lifetime's work to be done in arranging and describing the present collection, and it is being added to daily. I hope, however, that Mr. Wellcome will not wait until it is complete—for that will never be—but will continue the plan he has already begun of making parts of the Museum known to the world at large by individual publications bearing the stamp of the Wellcome Historical Museum. The Wellcome series

of books has been well received by the medical press of all countries. More would be acceptable, for there is an increasing number of highly educated medical men in Great Britain, the United States, France and Germany who are now taking an interest in the older literature of their profession. The Library attached to the Museum contains many rare books and some manuscripts which could be printed with advantage.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I will say no more, but just remind you that I rose to second a vote of thanks proposed by Sir Frederick Kenyon, and I do so most heartily.

THE CHAIRMAN: Sir Frederick Kenyon and Sir D'Arcy Power, I shall be very brief in replying, because I think it is entirely obvious that I am only a kind of St. John the Baptist, who should leave Sir Arthur Keith to make the speech ; as he made the speech of the evening, it is up to him to reply. I thank you very much.

SIR ARTHUR KEITH: Sir Humphry Rolleston, Sir Frederick Kenyon, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you most sincerely for the attentive way in which you listened to me as I tried to read my paper, which I am afraid I gabbled, for I feared you would not like it.

MR. W. G. SPENCER, O.B.E., M.S., M.B., F.R.C.S., *President of Section of History of the Royal Society of Medicine*: Sir Humphry Rolleston, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour, as President of the History Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, to

invite you to express our high appreciation and our warmest feelings of congratulation to Mr. Wellcome upon the re-opening of his Historical Medical Museum. The memory of the Seventeenth International Congress of Medicine in 1913, attended by 7000 people, it is said, from all parts of the earth, has been dulled by the events in following years ; but there is one outstanding remembrance of that Congress ; for the first time a special section was allotted to the history of medicine, the importance of which was greatly enhanced by the simultaneous opening of this Museum by Mr. Wellcome, the founder. At that opening, Mr. Norman Moore, later Sir Norman Moore, delivered an address which gave prominence to various parts of the Collection, accompanied by numerous references to Medical Museums and Collections in the past. The Royal Society of Medicine in general, and its History Section in particular, look upon this Museum as its essential and indispensable ally in the propagation and study of the history of medicine in London. Moreover, there are here manuscripts and incunabula which under all proper safeguards it is hoped may become available for study by scholars in that subject. It is certain that the subject which this Museum illustrates must, year by year, become of increasing importance, for one reason because the enormous growth and extent of medical literature, which includes huge amounts of re-duplication, will necessitate abbreviation, the presentation of all parts of medicine by historical methods or on the lines of evolution will be called for ; and, for a second reason, that there must come reforms in the way that medical students are

instructed. At the moment there is far too much of that which was common to the teaching of schoolboys in days gone by. The medical student has too often to plunge into the middle of things without preliminary explanations, to memorise quantities of disconnected particulars, for the first time to observe, it may be, a disease in an individual. Anyone who looks at the questions in examination papers, or at text-books, will recognise the need for giving the student a preliminary general view of the several parts of medicine he is about to enter upon. When such a reform comes about, this Museum will be enormously appreciated. (Hear, hear.) Exhibits, for instance, to take one thing: at the present moment there are exhibits in the Central Hall of the Natural History Museum which furnish examples of what can be done in the way of evolutionary exposition. I am asking you not only to recognise the munificence of Mr. Wellcome, but to join in the hopeful assurance that the Museum may now be set upon a permanent basis which for the future will connect it with the study of the history of medicine in London. Sir Humphry Rolleston, Ladies and Gentlemen, I beg to ask you to pass a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Wellcome for the founding of this wonderful Museum, for its continuity and for its re-opening, with the hope that, whatever happens, it will be established on a permanent basis for all time to come.

DR. JOHN D. COMRIE, M.A., F.R.C.P., F.S.A.,
Lecturer on History of Medicine and Clinical Medicine,
University of Edinburgh: Sir Humphry Rolleston,

Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel it is a great pleasure and honour to second this vote of thanks to Mr. Wellcome, the founder of the Museum, and I will try to do so briefly. Mr. Wellcome is fortunate in having possessed a delightful hobby in the History of Medicine, and he is still more fortunate in having been able to gratify that hobby ; he has been most generous in his desire to make us all participators in that hobby, and for that we owe him a very great debt of gratitude ; and just as Lorenzo the Magnificent made the Laurentian Library a sort of Mecca for scholars who wished to study the half-forgotten civilisation of Greece and Rome, so Mr. Wellcome has been very largely responsible for another revival of learning—the revival of an interest in ancient medical lore, which has in recent years become so conspicuous a success on both sides of the Atlantic.

There is still another special reason for which I should like to take this opportunity of expressing thanks to Mr. Wellcome. Not only has he instituted this splendid Museum in the capital, but his generosity has also extended to that remote and barbarous region, still inhabited by primitive men, North of the River Tweed. There, some good many years ago, Mr. Wellcome was good enough to establish certain medals and prizes in connection with the History of Medicine Lectureship at Edinburgh University. Stimulated largely by those medals and prizes (I am sure Mr. Wellcome would be very glad to know this), a purely voluntary course of the History of Medicine has been attended, in the 18 years or so since it was founded, by considerably over 1000 students. Now, I am sure we all regret

Mr. Wellcome's absence to-night, and I am sure we trust that he will have a safe and happy return at an early date, and I know that we hope that he will be preserved for many years of life and full energy for continuing his beneficent activities.

THE CHAIRMAN : Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope you will command me to communicate to Mr. Wellcome your very high appreciation of the value of the Wellcome Museum, your gratitude to a great benefactor to the study of medical history, and your thanks for his gracious and graceful hospitality which he has provided us with to-day. May I suggest that you should signify the same by standing up for a moment? (*The entire audience rose.*)

DR. C. M. WENYON, C.M.G., C.B.E., M.B., B.Sc., *Director-in-Chief, Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research* : Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope you will forgive me if I speak rather huskily, but I have rather a bad cold. Owing to the regrettable, but nevertheless unavoidable, absence of Mr. Wellcome this evening, it has fallen to my lot as Director-in-Chief of the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research, to reply on Mr. Wellcome's behalf to the very cordial vote of thanks which has been proposed by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Dr. Comrie, and which you have carried with such enthusiastic unanimity. I think you, Sir, read to us the telegram which Mr. Wellcome sent, in which he regretted his absence this evening. I myself received a letter from Mr. Wellcome the other day, in which he said he was

more disappointed than he could express at being deprived of the pleasure of being with us this evening. I am sure we all feel that Mr. Wellcome is thinking of us very earnestly to-night, and that he is hoping every success will attend this ceremony of re-opening the Historical Medical Museum—the Historical Medical Museum which has resulted from Mr. Wellcome's most remarkable foresight, and which has always been the object of very special personal care and attention on his part. I am sure if Mr. Wellcome were here this evening, and were thanking you for the very kind and complimentary remarks which have been made, he would remember, as he did in 1913, the assistance which he has received from many eminent men, not only in this country but all parts of the world, in the shape of advice and support, in the establishment and support of this Historical Medical Museum. He would also remember the past and present staffs of the Historical Medical Museum, who have assisted him very greatly in the construction and building up of the Museum. The Chairman has already referred to the part that the indefatigable Conservator, Mr. Malcolm, has played in this reorganisation work. In that work, the Chief Librarian, Mr. Charles R. Hewitt, who has charge of the wonderful library of 100,000 volumes, has also taken part, as also has the Secretary, Captain P. Johnston-Saint. If it had not been for the whole-hearted enthusiasm of these people, it is very doubtful if the Museum at the present time would have been in the perfect condition you will find it by and by when you inspect it. But, as the Chairman said, the Museum, as you will see it presently, is not a

finished article : it is just a commencement, and it is hoped that it will form a starting-point for developments which will be continued along truly scientific lines. If Mr. Wellcome were here this evening, he would probably tell us of some of his wishes regarding the future of the Museum, and the functions which he hopes it will fulfil. I am sure I am right in saying—in fact, I know I am right in saying—that it is Mr. Wellcome's wish that this Museum shall form a centre for study and research in matters connected with the history of medicine, and that it will lead to a definite advancement of science in various directions. When Mr. Wellcome was speaking in 1913 at the previous opening of this Museum, he said that it was his intention to found in London a Bureau of Scientific Research, and that the Historical Medical Museum might very fitly form an adjunct to that Bureau. I think Sir Frederick Kenyon has already referred to the Bureau of Scientific Research, which you will have realised is now an accomplished fact. The Bureau of Scientific Research includes laboratories at Endsleigh Gardens, and a Museum of Medical Science, including tropical medicine, in which the diseases of all climates are illustrated in graphic form from the point of view of their history, etiology, symptomatology, therapeutics and prophylactics. That Museum is to be the object of an opening ceremony at a not very distant date. Affiliated to the Bureau are its very extensive Research Laboratories at Beckenham and the Entomological Laboratory ; so the Historical Medical Museum, as you will see, is only one of the many institutions which Mr. Wellcome's unbounded generosity has founded. I think there is very little more that I

need say, but I should like very much on Mr. Wellcome's behalf to thank you, because, in spite of the inclemency of the weather this evening, so many of you have been able to be present. Many letters have been received from people in this country and various parts of the Continent, expressing very sincere regret that they have been unable to be present. Finally, I must thank you formally for the very cordial thanks which you have passed to Mr. Wellcome, and which you have carried so unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN : It only remains for me now to declare, on behalf of the generous founder, the Museum re-opened, and we will follow Dr. Wenyon and the Conservator through the Museum.



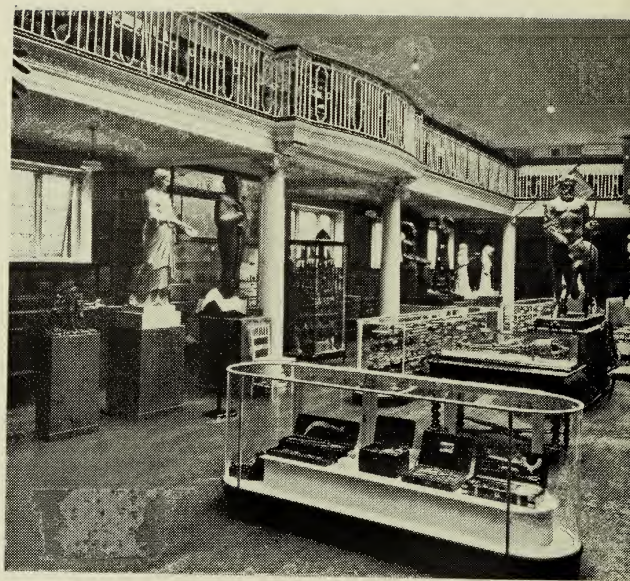
HALL OF PRIMITIVE MEDICINE—THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM



THE JENNER COLLECTION
THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM



PART OF THE ORIGINAL LISTER WARD—THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM



THE HALL OF STATUARY—THE W



E HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM



GENERAL VIEW OF PORTRAIT GALLERY—THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM



PART OF EAST WALL, PORTRAIT GALLERY—THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM



PART OF THE ANATOMY ROOM—THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM

